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CANADA

# THE MAXX

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# **image**™

## **COMICS PRESENTS**

# **THE MAXX**™

Story • Art

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Swell Dialogue

**BILL MESSNER-LOEBS**

Finishes

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Lettering

**MIKE HEISLER**

Color

**STEVE OLIFF  
& OLYOPTICS**

Logo

**CHANCE WOLF**

Film Output

**KELL-O-GRAPHICS**

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Publisher

Distribution

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Assistant to Exec. Director

Production

Traffic Coordinator

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**KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM**

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**PATTI STRATTON JORDAN**

**KIRK MOBERT**

**QUINN SUPLEE**

**WILLIAM ZINDEL**

**LEA RUDE**

**STACY COX**

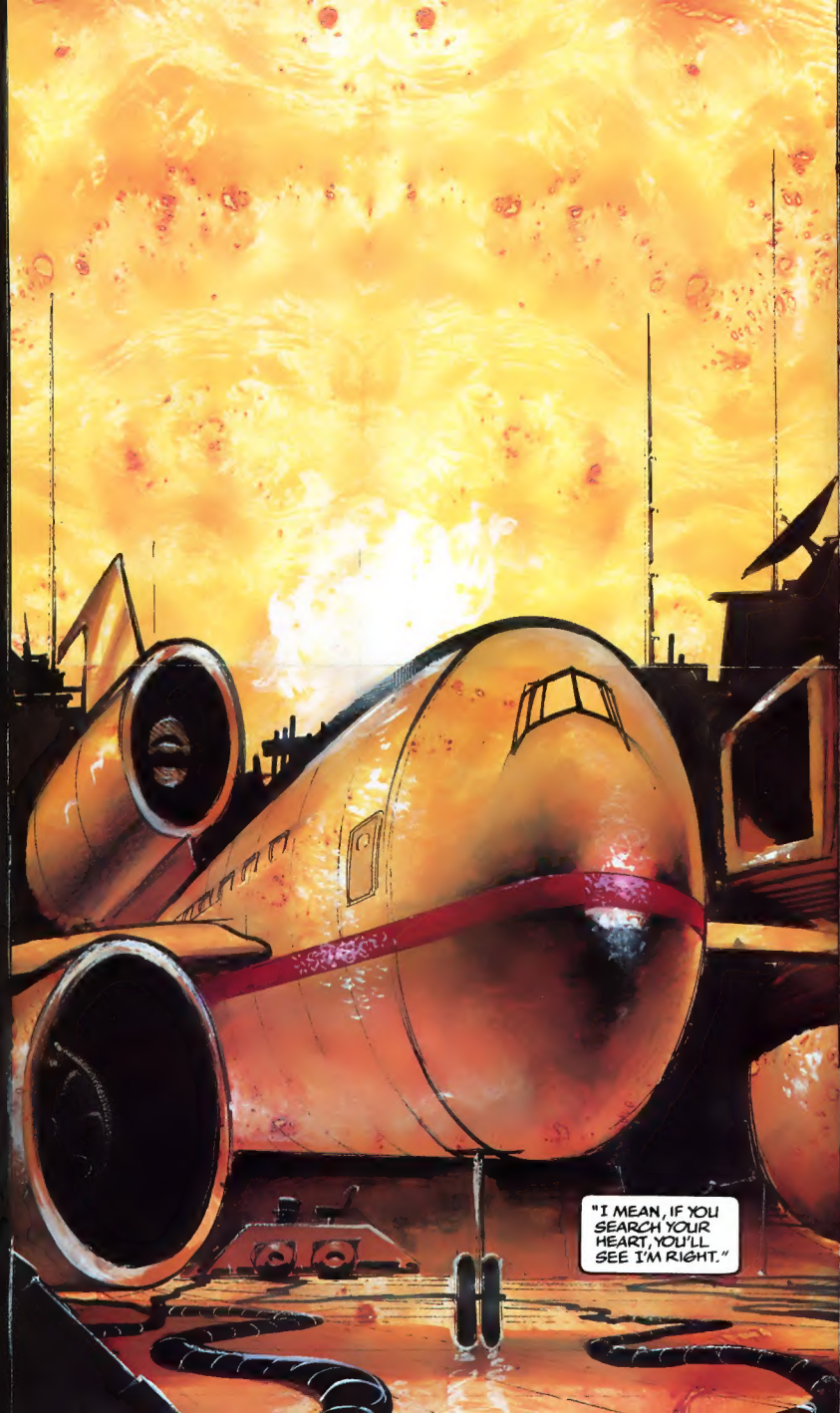
**MARIE ST. CLAIR**

**CHRIS WOLFE**

**MOOLIS**

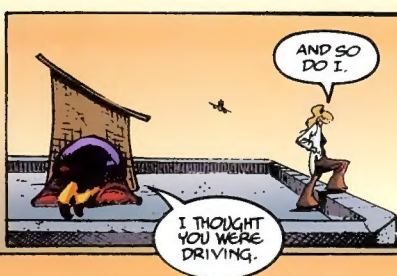
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Printed in Canada



"I MEAN, IF YOU  
SEARCH YOUR  
HEART, YOU'LL  
SEE I'M RIGHT."







LOOK, MAXX.  
YOU'VE GOT  
TO GIVE SOME  
HERE, OKAY?



C'MON,  
MAN...



...PLEASE  
DON'T SHUT  
ME OUT.



WE CAN'T GO  
ON LIKE THIS...YOU  
RESCUE ME. I BAIL  
YOU OUT. I LIVE IN  
YOUR FANTASY. YOU  
LIVE IN MINE.



WE'VE  
GOT TO STOP  
PRETENDING.

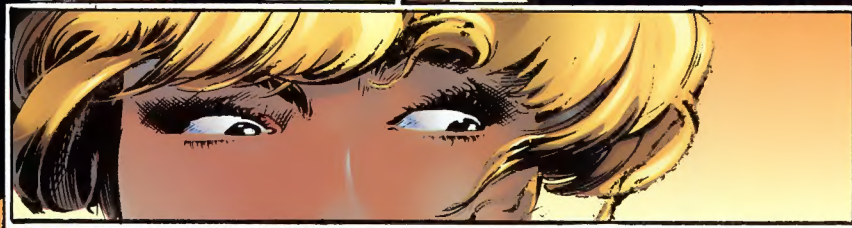
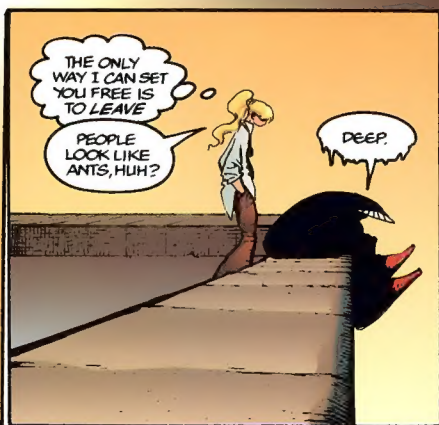


BUT  
IF YOU  
LEAVE...

...EVERYTHING  
WILL CHANGE.









HE'S COOL! HE'S BIG AN' STRONG AN' PURPLE AN' COOL.

IS NOT! HE'S GOT NEAT CLAWS! AN' BIG TEETH! AN'...

NO, HE'S NOT. HE'S A WIMP. YOU SAW THE WAY HE JUST RAN FROM THAT SHARK-GUY. HE'S A COWARD.



MAXX IS NOT COOL. MR. GONE IS COOL.


MR. GONE'S NOT COOL! HE'S TOO SKINNY!

HE'S NOT SKINNY... HE'S WIRY!



YOU'RE BOTH IDIOTS.






YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
TALKING ABOUT. YOU  
DON'T EVEN KNOW  
WHAT A HERO  
IS.

LIKE  
YOU DO,  
SARAH.

MAXX IS  
A HERO 'CAUSE  
HE'S GOT BIG  
MUSCLES.

MAXX IS  
WEAK!



IT TAKES  
SOMEONE EVIL  
LIKE MR. GONE  
TO KILL BAD  
GUYS!

HE COULD  
SMOKE BOTH  
OF YOU WITHOUT  
RAISING A  
**FINGER!**



sigh

COME  
ON, KENT.  
STUPID  
GIRLS.



SO, DID  
YOU TELL  
HIM?



YEAH. I  
COULDN'T HAVE  
HANDLED IT ANY  
WORSE IF I HAD  
*CUT OUT HIS  
HEART AND  
STAMPED ON  
IT.*



SO,  
IT WENT  
SMOOTHLY  
THEN.



HEY, YOU'RE  
DEALING WITH  
A *PRO* HERE.



HE'S SO...  
SO *FIXATED*  
ON ME, SARAH.  
WHEN DOES MY  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR HIM END?



IT'S NOT LIKE  
YOU'RE WORRIED  
YOU'LL FIND HIM  
OUTSIDE YOUR  
WINDOW, IGNORING  
THE *RESTRAINING*  
ORDER AND *KILL-*  
ING ALL YOUR  
PETS, ARE YOU?





WELL,  
**ARE**  
YOU?

SARAH,  
OF COURSE  
NOT. IT'S JUST...  
OH, I DON'T  
KNOW.

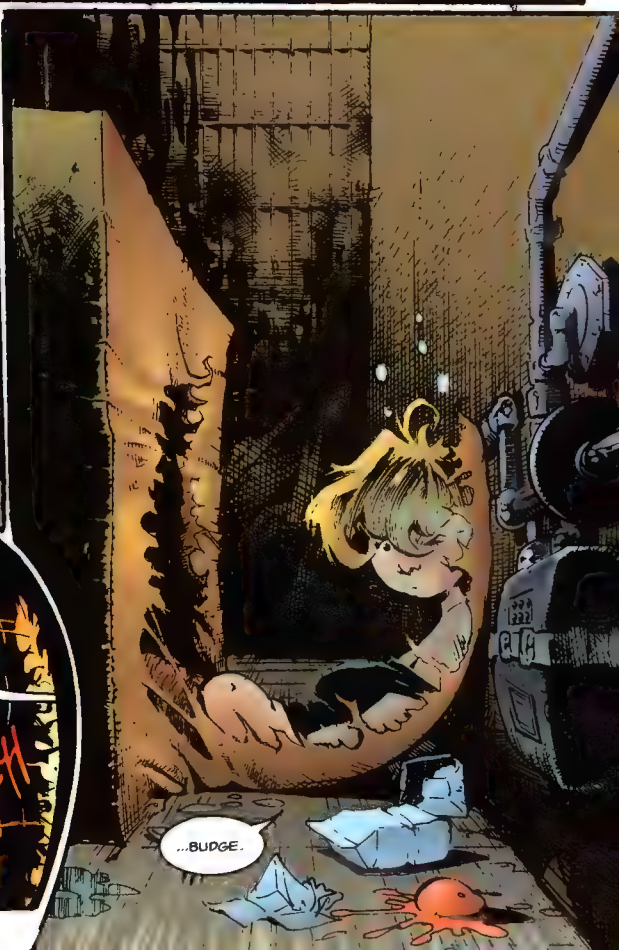


I JUST  
HAVE TO  
REMEMBER I'M  
RIGHT. TO STAND  
MY GROUND.



I HAVE  
TO STAY FIRM,  
AND NOT...

Fluffy



...BUDGE.





RRRRROOOOORRRRTT

GONE!

THAT'S MR.  
GONE TO YOU,  
CLAW-BOY.

ACTUALLY, YOU'RE  
JUST THE LITTLE BUNDLE  
OF NEGATIVE  
REINFORCEMENT I  
WANTED TO TALK  
TO.

I'VE GOT  
TO TIDY UP MY  
KARMA ON THIS  
PLANE BEFORE  
I GO.

JULIE'S  
LEAVING.

REALLY? I DIDN'T  
THINK THAT GIRL WOULD  
EVER READ AHEAD IN  
THE PROSPECTUS! DID  
SHE TELL YOU THAT  
EVERY TIME I TRIED  
TO TELL HER ABOUT HER  
PAST, SHE'D CUT MY  
HEAD OFF?

BUT...SHE'S  
LEAVING.

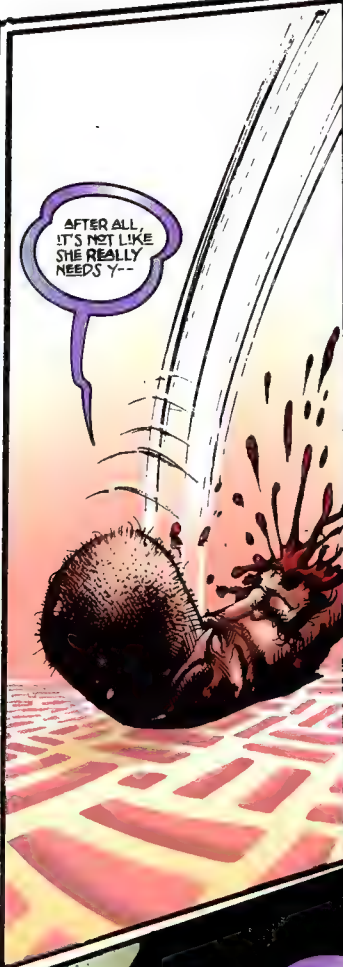
OH, GROW UP.  
SHE HAS TO, PUCKY.  
JUST LIKE I HAVE TO GET  
THINGS STRAIGHTENED OUT  
WITH SARAH BEFORE I CAN  
GO ON. OH, AND BY THE  
WAY, YOU'RE NOT A  
RABBIT. YOU JUST GOT  
IN THE WAY WHEN JULIE'S  
SPIRIT ANIMAL TRIED TO  
INCARNATE IN THIS  
PLANE. FEEL BETTER?

BUT...SHE'S  
LEAVING!

LEMMEE TRY  
THIS AGAIN. SHE HAS  
TO. OTHERWISE WE'LL  
ALL BE TRAPPED IN HERE  
FOREVER. DON'T YOU  
WANT TO KNOW WHAT  
YOUR OUTBACK IS,  
WHEN SHE'S NOT  
AROUND?







AFTER ALL,  
IT'S NOT LIKE  
SHE REALLY  
NEEDS Y--

A comic book panel showing a character being crushed by a giant foot. The character is lying on a red and yellow checkered floor, with blood splashing out. A speech bubble from the character reads: "AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE REALLY NEEDS Y--".



A comic book panel showing a character's face being crushed. The character is wearing a purple and yellow mask. A speech bubble from the character reads: "...OH...".

...OH...



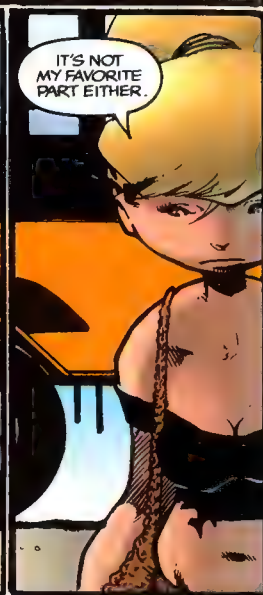
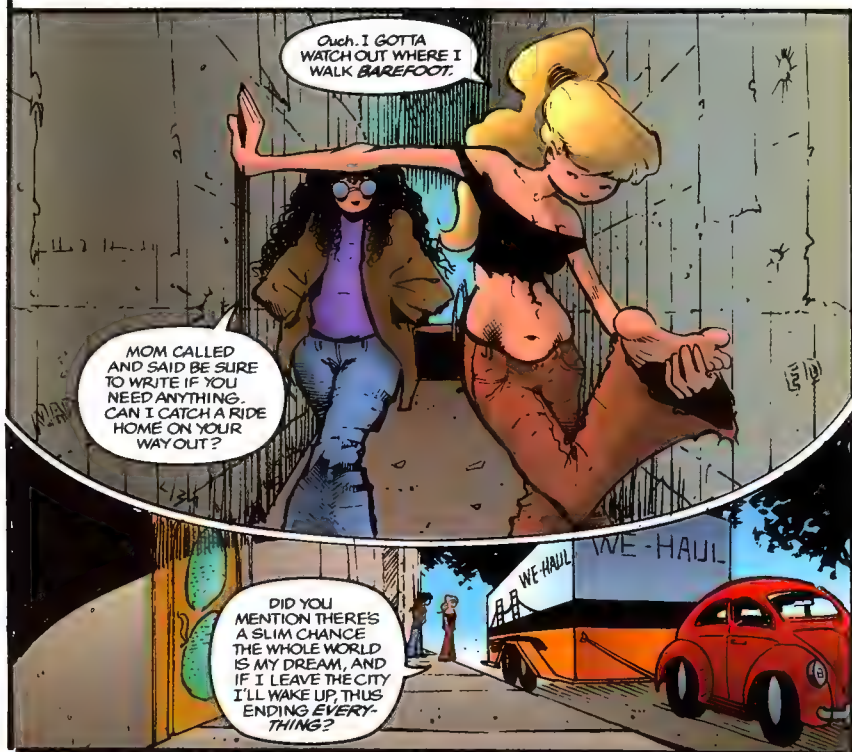
A comic book panel showing a character's head being crushed. The character is wearing a purple and yellow mask. A speech bubble from the character reads: "...OH...".

...OH...



A comic book panel showing a character's head being crushed. The character is wearing a purple and yellow mask. A speech bubble from the character reads: "...OH...".

...OH...





DARK  
ENOUGH IN  
HERE...

MAXX?  
YOU  
HERE?

I'VE GOT  
PEZ...

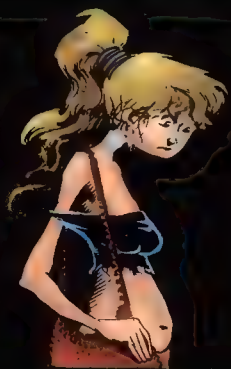
HMM. THAT  
USUALLY  
WORKS.

MAXX?

I'VE COME  
TO SAY  
GOODBYE.

BYE.





DAMMIT,  
MAXX. WHY ARE  
YOU ACTING  
THIS WAY?

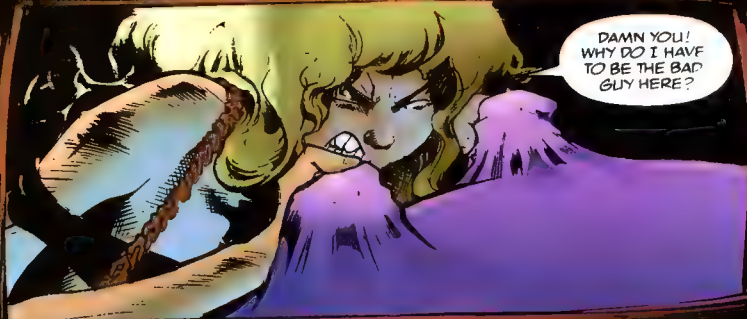
IT'S NOT LIKE  
YOU THINK YOU'LL  
*DISAPPEAR* IF I  
LEAVE, RIGHT?



RIGHT,  
MAXX?



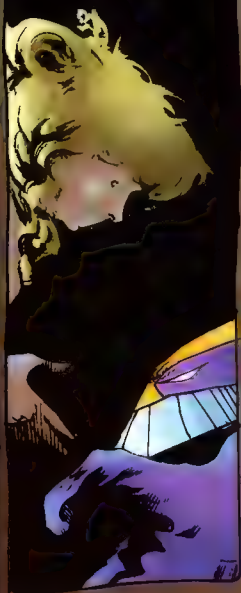
GOD, MAXX.  
YOU DO. IT'S  
GONNA BE ALL  
RIGHT.

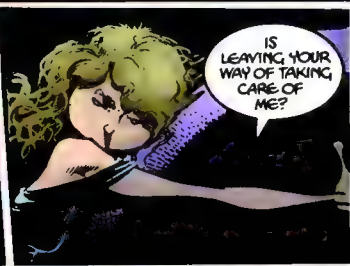
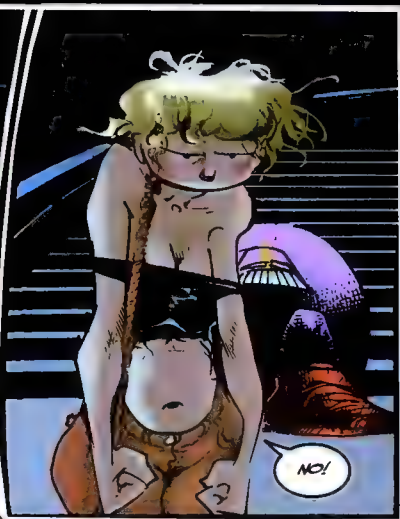
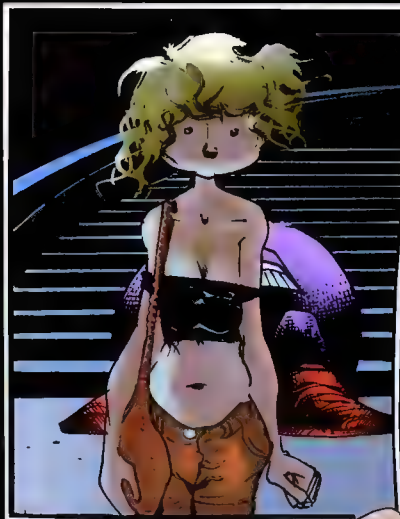


DAMN YOU!  
WHY DO I HAVE  
TO BE THE BAD  
GUY HERE?

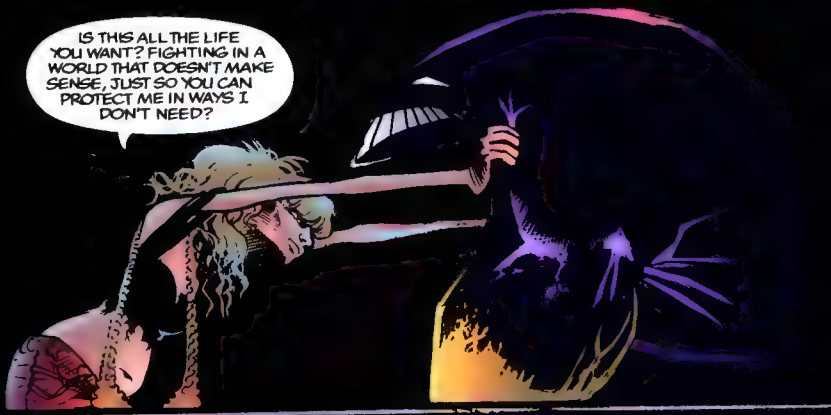
MAXX, IF  
YOU REALLY  
CARED ABOUT  
ME, YOU WOULDN'T  
MAKE THIS ANY  
HARDER THAN IT  
ALREADY IS.

THEN  
I DON'T  
CARE.









IS THIS ALL THE LIFE  
YOU WANT? FIGHTING IN A  
WORLD THAT DOESN'T MAKE  
SENSE, JUST SO YOU CAN  
PROTECT ME IN WAYS I  
DON'T NEED?



YES.



WELL,  
I WANT  
SOMETHING  
MORE!



I'M  
THROUGH  
BEGGING,  
JULIE.



I THINK,  
IF YOU LOOK  
DEEP  
INSIDE...

YOU  
ALREADY  
KNOW THE  
RIGHT THING  
TO DO.



YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
MAXX.

I DO.



...STRONG  
ENOUGH...



...TO DO IT.



BUT I'M  
THE ONLY  
ONE...



YOU PACKED EVERYTHING?

UH-HUH.  
IS HE GONNA  
BE ALL RIGHT?

SURE.

ARE YOU  
GONNA BE ALL  
RIGHT?



CAN WE  
**JUST GO,**  
SARAH?

ARE YOU  
SURE YOU GOT  
IT ALL?

YOU CAN  
ALWAYS COME  
BACK IF YOU  
NEED TO...



NO,  
SARAH.

**SLAM!**







By now, you know Julie has left for San Francisco. You may be wondering how we can have a Maxx and Julie book without the Julie. Well, we haven't seen the last of her. . .

Issue #11 is the end of Phase One. If we've done our jobs right, by now you should know:

- 1) Maxx is not a bunny here, but only in Julie's outback;
- 2) Why a rabbit? When Julie's pet bunny died, that event cemented her relationship with a rabbit as her spirit animal; and. . .
- 3) Now that Mr. Gone has helped Julie see this, he'll concern himself more with Sarah.

What we don't know is:

- 1) What's blue and wet;
- 2) Why Mr. Gone lost his head over it (remember, Julie wasn't ready to hear what was blue and wet in #8), and. . .
- 3) Why Maxx is seeing Buicks in the middle of the outback.

Hopefully, Issues #12-20 will answer everything. What happens after Issue #20? I don't know—by then the story will be done, and we'll just have to see. It's hard to imagine people will be as interested in this stuff a year from now. . .

I haven't talked much about the cartoon yet. There's no mysterious reason for this—I just haven't gotten around to it. So if you're NOT interested in the cartoon stuff, skip this part.

Whatever looks good on the Maxx cartoon will be largely due to this guy named Greg Vanzo and his animation studio, Rough Draft. Greg is a really cool guy who fought hard for the cartoon to be exactly like the comic. Even Bill and I wanted to do it differently from the book in the beginning—luckily, Greg talked us out of it. (Not that the book was perfect; we did change some dialogue here and there.) But Greg, along with Producer Claudia Katz, have been working their *butts* off, and I really appreciate it. Plus, many of the animators are Maxx-heads! (See pix on following pages.)

More Maxx Faxx: The MTV guys (you can't call them Suits because they actually wear T-shirts and tennis shoes) are John Andrews and Abby Terkuhle. I rib MTV a lot and will continue to do so, but John and Abby are the guys who wanted Maxx to be on MTV in the first place. They've worked hard to make sure this cartoon preserves the cool parts of the book, and this project would not have happened without John Andrews, in

fact. I've seen projects drift away from creators, and John's worked to make sure that doesn't happen with Maxx. Hey—they're even talking to the Pez folks (more Pez news in a minute).

Re: Cartoon. Maxx will NOT be:

- 1) a half-hour cartoon by itself;
- 2) a three-minute segment on Liquid TV;
- 3) a Nike commercial.

But it WILL be:

- 1) 13 ten-minute episodes paired with another show called "The Head;"
- 2) probably titled, "Oddities." We can't really call it "Maxx-Head" because of "Maxx Headroom" (remember that?). And "Head-Maxx" sounds obscene. We considered "Animodities," but I think we're gonna settle on "Oddities" because both characters are odd—"The Head" is about a guy with a head the size of a VW, and Maxx has a. . . never mind. . .
- 3) coming out by Christmas;
- 4) including two songs that I'm currently obsessed with: "I Wanna Marry a Lighthouse Keeper," from *Clockwork Orange*, (after Alex comes home to Mom and Dad after being "rehabilitated") and the instrumental version of "Take Your Clothes Off When You Dance" from Lumpy Gravy II (from Frank Zappa's *We're Only in it for the Money*).

Now you know as much as I.

I really want this cartoon to look good, and I've overseen everything I can, going over storyboards and key drawings, and painting some backgrounds for the first episode. Bill hasn't been left out either, and will get story credit for his part in the original scripts.

Pez news: It doesn't look likely that Pez will sponsor the show; the demographics are wrong. But they were quite impressed by the mountain of mail we heaped on their desks; the *begging*, *pleading*, *bribes* and *threats* are all weakening their resolve. Keep writing—soon they will be ours! (Now we gotta work on the toast people.)

**Instead of letters this issue, we're showing cool Maxx art from the animators and from you guys. Keep writing those weird letters, though—more will appear in Issue 12, which will come out in December.**

# A Day in the Life of ROUGH DRAFT

**Rough Draft Shelves;  
with titles like  
“The Next Shelf”, “The Wide Shelf  
Below the Next Shelf” and  
“The Jealous Shelf that would kill  
for the view of the rug.”**



**Debbie Cone,  
hard at work!**



**Greg Vanzo goes over Maxx  
with Yarrow Cheney, (left),  
and Zeus Cervas**



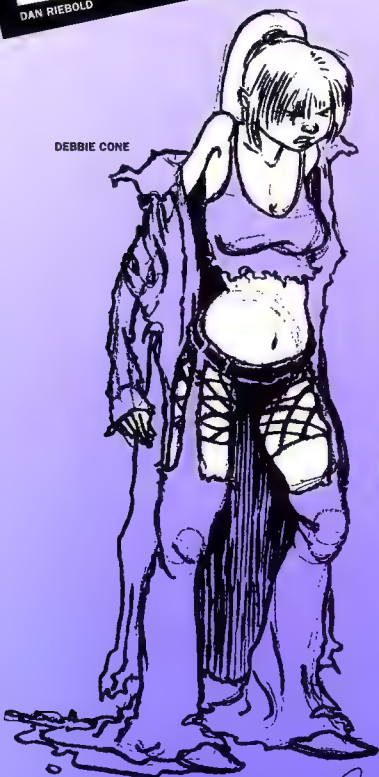
**Greg's brother, Kurt,  
works on sound.**



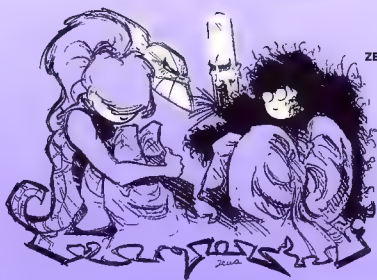
# R.D. ANIMATORS TAKE



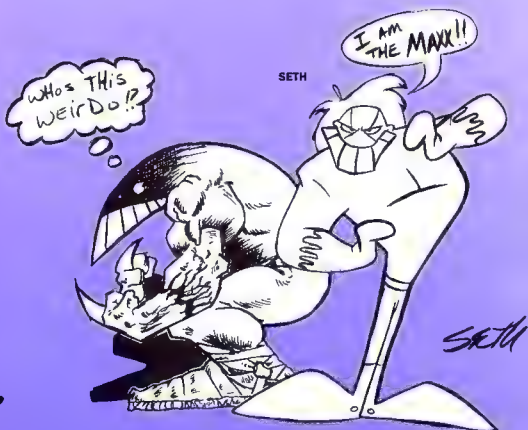
DEBBIE CONE



ZEUS CERZVAS



SETH





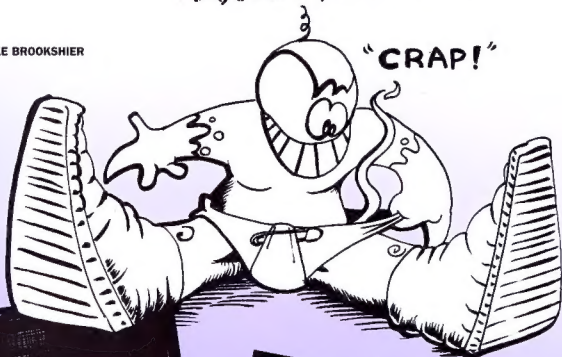
# A STAB AT MAXX

MAXX KIETH



LUKE BROOKSHIER

MAXX'S FIRST WORD



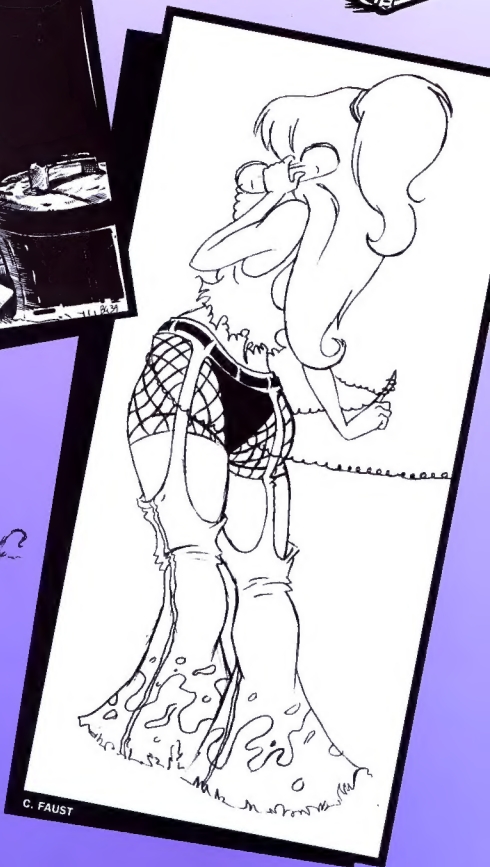
YARROW CHENEY



JAMES LEE



C. FAUST



# FANS DO



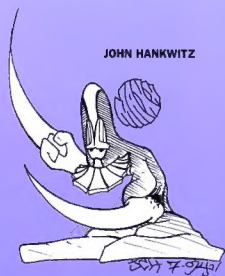
SOUTHER SALAZAR



STEFANO CAROTI



JOHN HANKWITZ



CARY NORD &  
JEREMY TANKARD

Eazyhozd - 93

J. TANKARD 96

# D A M A X X

CHRIS GIMER



TIM FISHER

Chris Gimer 94

ADAM DAVIS







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